

Governor Michael R. Pence
Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann
Director Ted A. McKinney

Office of Communications
One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 600 Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 232-8770 · Fax: (317) 232-1362
www.in.gov/isda · communications@isda.in.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 17, 2015

Indiana FFA Adds New Leadership

Tamara Neighbors promoted to Director; Robert Hayes Hired as Assistant Director

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced the promotion of Tamara Neighbors to Director of Indiana FFA Programs and the hire of Robert Hays as the Assistant Director of Indiana FFA Programs.

Tamara Neighbors is a graduate from Purdue University with a degree in Agricultural Education. Prior to this promotion, Neighbors worked as the Assistant Director of Leadership Programs FFA for ISDA.

"Tamara's experience within FFA and dedication to agricultural education proves that she will be an excellent director for Indiana FFA Programs," said ISDA Director Ted McKinney. "She will provide superior leadership to FFA and we are excited to see her take Indiana FFA to a new level of greatness."

As the Director of Indiana FFA Programs, Neighbors will oversee programs, collaborate with ISDA staff to progress agricultural education, enhance communications between Advisors and FFA members and act as a liaison between Indiana FFA and National FFA.

Robert Hays is a graduate from Purdue University and is currently working toward his Master of Science in Education at Purdue. Prior to joining ISDA, Hays was the Agriculture Science and Business teacher for the Warsaw Community Schools as well as the FFA Advisor for the Warsaw FFA.

"Robert's knowledge and enthusiasm for agricultural education and FFA will make him an exceptional addition to our team," said ISDA Director Ted McKinney. "We are certain that he will provide excellent leadership for Indiana FFA."

As the Assistant Director of Indiana FFA Programs, Hays will work extensively to enhance the organization's budgets, goals, recruitment strategies and communication between FFA Advisors and members.

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director of ISDA is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

###

Media Contact:

Ben Kenney
317.690.3303
bkenney@isda.in.gov